



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 25, 2011

Number: 29

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

Rainy weather has saturated most of the Commonwealth of Virginia delaying hay cutting and field work. Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.7. Corn harvest has been delayed in many areas of the state along with hay making. Soybeans continued to look good to excellent although a few are yellowing and being monitored for potential quality issues. Tobacco harvest has been delayed. Dry weather is needed for cotton and peanut work to resume. Vegetable growers continued to dig sweet potatoes and harvest pumpkins. Some have begun to plant strawberries.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 28, 2011	19	28	45	8
September 4, 2011	8	24	63	5
September 11, 2011	1	13	67	19
September 18, 2011	1	15	71	13
September 25, 2011	1	9	67	23

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 28, 2011	22	32	45	1
September 4, 2011	10	27	59	4
September 11, 2011	8	14	66	12
September 18, 2011	7	17	68	8
September 25, 2011	6	14	65	15

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Cooperative Extension
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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	5	8	34	43	10
Livestock	2	5	26	47	20
Hay, Other	5	13	38	33	11
Hay, Alfalfa	3	5	28	52	12
Corn	3	11	32	45	9
Soybeans	1	3	21	58	17
Tobacco, Flue-cured	0	18	60	20	2
Tobacco, Burley	0	11	29	60	0
Peanuts	0	2	39	45	14
Cotton	0	12	64	22	2
Apples, All	0	0	26	67	7

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	91	88	99	99
Corn Mature	83	76	90	89
Corn for Grain Harvested	59	43	77	44
Corn Silage Harvested	84	83	94	87
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	35	21	59	39
Soybeans Harvested	1	NA	5	2
Winter Wheat Seeded	26	11	11	7
Barley Seeded	31	18	20	22
Oats for Grain Seeded	34	14	24	8
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	72	56	61	68
Burley Tobacco Harvested	75	70	87	79
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	95	93	90	97
Peanuts Dug	4	4	9	12
Peanuts Combined	1	NA	3	3
Cotton Bolls Opening	76	55	69	79
Cotton Harvested	0	0	11	4
Fall Apples Harvested	41	25	43	51

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sept. 24	Mar. 1 to Sept. 24 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	72	59	75	54	65	-1	3713	3456	1.73	4.09	1.07	27.74	-4.89
Norfolk	76	67	82	64	72	1	4413	3836	4.15	6.46	3.19	44.77	9.24
Richmond	75	64	80	57	69	0	4206	3733	1.17	7.27	4.14	36.85	3.66
Roanoke	72	61	78	56	66	-1	3888	NA	1.01	7.35	4.27	32.44	0.00
Wash/Dulles	74	62	79	52	68	2	3747	NA	0.75	7.66	4.59	33.02	1.58

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

Rain is delaying harvest and small grain planting

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Frederick County is still dry although we received some rainfall. Pastures are coming back and many have quit feeding. The water table is coming up and ponds are filling.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Excessive moisture has taken a heavy toll on late-maturing tomatoes and all vine crops including winter squash and pumpkins. Yields will be down significantly. Corn harvest has been interrupted by heavy rains, but yields have been good to excellent. As harvest drags on, however, lodging will be more and more of a problem. Soybeans are still looking good to excellent and are starting to drop leaves in most areas. We need some dry weather to insure quality and reduce the chance of rot and mildew. Strawberry producers have managed to plant most of next season's crop between rainstorms.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Rain widespread and heavy. I had four inches in my home gauge on Friday afternoon. Has been cloudy and misty and showery ever since including Monday of the new week. Corn harvest has progressed pretty well in spite of recent weather challenges. I have not seen any beans harvested yet but maturity and leaf drop have begun on early beans. There is not much evidence of small grain plantings yet but some producers are aerially and otherwise broadcasting cover crops.

EASTERN

KING GEORGE (John Howe)

Wet, wet and wetter conditions!

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Off and on rain showers from mid week to the end of the week limited field work, but farmers continued to make some progress harvesting the corn crop. Farmers were also busy taking soil samples and making plans for small grain planting. Hay making has really been hampered by the wet weather.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Wet, humid and warm this week. More rains scheduled for end of the week and weekend which will halt harvest. Corn harvest continued this week and yield remain good to very good. Corn stalks continue to deteriorate as rain continues. Soybeans are loving this. Should be a very good to excellent crop. Haymaking is about impossible but there is a lot of grass out there to cut. Chances for rain showers continue for the next week. Most vegetable harvest is over. Quality issues for late season crops. Sweet potato digging continues. Good quality pumpkins will be in short supply. Soil sampling, lime applications and some field burn-down continues in prep for small grain planting. Barley planting should begin in early October. There is some talk of seed shortage for barley and wheat seed.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Rain most of the week limited tobacco and corn silage harvest. Most of the corn left now is declining in quality rapidly. The moisture and cooler nights have stimulated grasslands and the area is entering fall grazing with ample forage supplies.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rain last week slowed tobacco salvage harvesting down, along with corn harvest. Soybeans are yellowing and producers are keeping an eye on them for any and all potential issues.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Rains again keeping farmers from fields. Growers are applying fungicides to peanuts. Peanuts will start digging as soon as fields are dry enough. Cotton defoliant is being applied. We are in need of some good drying days for both cotton and peanut work to begin.

(Southeastern continued)

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

We had another wet week 9/19-25, with hardly any field work. Growers are anxious to get some sunshine and get harvest underway.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

We asked for rain and plenty is falling. Too much as we get prepared for a good harvest. Fields need to dry up to finish up corn harvest, start peanut digging and cotton defoliation then picking. Quality will be a big issue for cotton and peanut crop.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

An abundance of rain has kept farmers from field activities this week. A few soybeans are still being sprayed for corn earworms. Soybean leaves are dropping and harvest will begin soon.



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